

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION
CS-33: "LIVE BRUSH MATS & LAYERS"

33.1 SCOPE

This specification covers the installation of live brush mats and layers for erosion control and bank stabilization. Installation shall be to the lines and grades as shown on the drawing and to the requirements of this construction specification.

33.2 SITE PREPARATION

The bank shall be shaped to the lines and grades shown in the drawings. Excess material shall be disposed by spreading in the areas shown on the drawings or removed from the site prior to the installation of the live brush mat or layer.

33.3 MATERIALS

The brush mat or layer shall be made from native woody plant materials or woody plants that are adapted to the site. The plant species and dimensions are shown on the drawings. The plant material shall be free from disease and harmful insects. The plant materials shall be installed within 48 hours after initial preparation unless refrigerated.

33.4 INSTALLATION

Use one of the methods that is applicable for the planting:

- a. Brush Mats:
 - 1. Place brush mats parallel to the slope basal ends downward.
 - 2. Secure to the slope with dead stout stakes and smooth wire. Drive the dead stout stakes further into the ground compressing the brush mattress.
 - 3. Cover the completed brush mat with soil and tamp to obtain soil-plant contact.
- b. Brush Layers:
 - 1. Place horizontal or at an angle to the slope with the butt end of the branches into the soil
 - 2. Cover the branches with soil leaving at least two buds but not more than 20 percent of the branch exposed.